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by John Fleming.

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OTHER NUMBERS IN PREPARATION.

H. E. DEATS,

PUBLISHER,

FLEMINGTON, N. J.

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The

Flemington

Copper Mines.

A SKETCH
OF THE
COPPER MINING
ENTERPRISE,
—NEAR—
FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY,
By Elias Vosseller.

SECOND EDITION.

FLEMINGTON, N. J.,
H. E. Dents,
1900.

ANTHONY KILLGORE,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
Flemington, N. J.

106308

Gordon's History of New Jersey, published in 1824, says "a valuable deposit of copper ore is said to have been lately found near Flemington."

About this time Squire George Rea was employing some men to prospect for copper ore on his account near Copper Hill, but with little success. It was well known that copper mines had been operated in this neighborhood in pre-Revolutionary times by an English company, probably with unsatisfactory results.

There were evidences at that time of such work on a farm then owned by Jacob Rockatellow, one and one-half miles south of Flemington; also, on a farm then owned by Hugh Capner, about one-quarter mile west of Flemington. The belief that there were valuable deposits of copper in this neighborhood was gaining ground, and as early as 1825 a petition was sent to the Legislature, asking for the formation of a

mining company. In 1836, the Neshanic Mining Company was formed with the intention of developing the above mentioned Rockafellow property. They bought the farm for \$3,150. Hugh Capner, John H. Capner, W. H. Sloan, Samuel Hill and Joseph Case were the incorporators. The property was capitalized at \$100,000,—1,000 shares at \$100 each—the money to be paid to the Directors as needed to develop the property up to the full amount. Capt. Saly and his two sons, English miners, were put in charge of a gang of men to find the copper. They had no success beyond finding here and there a pocket of good ore. In opening one of the pre-Revolutionary shafts, about fifty feet below the surface they came upon some mining tools, such as wedges and picks, and an oak bucket of about two bushels capacity, strongly bound with iron. This bucket Mr. John H. Capner had in his possession for about twenty years, when it fell to pieces. The handle he has yet. They found an irregular chamber about 15 feet square, from which they believed copper ore had been taken.

By a supplement to their charter they increased their number of shares to any number not exceeding 15,000 and gained the

privilege of building a railroad to the nearest point on the South Branch and Delaware rivers respectively, but to be used only for purposes connected with the mining operators of said Company. It was an expensive experiment and was abandoned.

This lack of success seemed to cool the mining fever until, in digging a cellar for a new house on his farm, Hugh Capner found good copper ore. With this discovery the mining excitement broke out afresh, and on September 20, 1846, Hugh Capner sold his farm for \$40,000.00 getting \$22,000.00 in cash and a Mortgage for the balance. Subsequently he foreclosed the Mortgage and bought the property back; and shortly afterwards sold it again receiving \$35,000.00 in cash. On February 24, 1847, the Flemington Copper Company was chartered. The property was capitalized at \$200,000--10,000 shares at \$20 each, assessable to the extent of \$10 per share, and the shares to be forfeited if assessments were not paid in 30 days. These shares were assessed to the full extent. By a supplementary act, March 14, 1851, the Directors were authorized to assess \$5 more per share. By further supplement March 17, 1854, the name was changed to the Raritan Consolidated Mining

Company, and power granted to issue 50,000 shares of stock at \$5 each in lieu of old stock, by which operation \$100,000 of debt vanished.

About this time the American Copper Mining Company of Flemington was formed. This Company was never incorporated, nor can we find that it ever owned any land, but it had 10,000 shares of stock, assessable up to \$7 per share. The Trustees were all Philadelphia men except one, and it looks as if they were acting the old story of Hodge's Razors. The innocent purchaser complained that they would not shave, and he was blandly informed by the seller that they were not made to shave but to sell.

In 1843 the Philadelphia and New Jersey Copper Company was formed. They owned some land and 10,000 shares of assessable stock. The South Flemington Mining Co. was formed later, George N. Sanders and W. Colorado Jewett amongst the incorporators. These men afterward became notorious as self-appointed Commissioners from the Confederate States, trying to compromise the Washington authorities through Horace Greeley, using Canada as a base of operations.

On June 4, 1847, the Readington Company was formed. This seems to have been another

one of those bogus concerns which possessed nothing but a Board of Officers and 15,000 shares of assessable stock.

On February 17, 1848, the Central Mining Company was incorporated, with Jonathan Oeden and Edward Remington, of Philadelphia, and J. G. Reading and W. H. Sloan, of Flemington as Trustees. The Central allowed its Trustees \$300 each per year, as compensation, if they could make it. They bought the Bartollette farm, now occupied by Geo. Van Sinderen, about a mile south of Flemington, secured an engine and all necessary implements, and seem to have made an honest effort to find the ore. They sunk three large shafts and prospected at many places on their lands. They capitalized at \$100,000. It was the old story over—copper ore and good ore, too, but not in paying quantities. On March 7, 1861, this property was sold to the Acorn Copper Company.

March 20, 1867, the Hunterdon Copper Mining Company was incorporated with Asa Jones, Bennett Van Syckel, George A. Allen and Charles Bartles as incorporators. They capitalized at the modest sum of one-half million dollars, with the usual conditions, the stock assessable and forfeited if assessments were not paid in thirty days.

This was the same property which was first known as the Flanigan Copper Company, afterward as Rutan Consolidated Mining Company and then as Hunterdon Mining Company, and on this property was expended the greatest amount of work and money. Joseph Case, just across Mine Brook, owned four acres of land. He sunk a shaft and found good ore. The Mining Company offered him \$4,000 for his land and he sold it. His brother owned seventy acres contiguous to this, and the Company offered him \$6,000 for his farm, but he refused saying if it was worth that much to them it was to him, and he blamed his brother for selling his land at the paltry sum of \$1,000 per acre. This seventy-acre farm was sold afterward for \$7,000 and was considered well sold.

One of the early manipulators of this mine would not allow any of the ore to be displaced, but cleared away the rock, exposing the ore to view so that capitalists could be taken through and shown the ore in its natural state. He seemed to know that the ore was in small bodies, or pockets, and that it was easiest to sell the unknown quantity. He was very successful in making money, and afterward built a fine residence in Somerville.

Later, when the smelting furnace had been put up, the plan was changed. When a pocket was found somehow the news reached New York and Philadelphia, and the stages brought a great many strangers who were found to be interested in copper mining. They were allowed to see the ore come out of the ground and to witness the various processes of extraction until they found a little piece of good solid copper in one pocket and a handful of nicely printed assessable stock in another.

These were good times for speculators. It is said that one Flemington gentleman started for New York to market some stock at a favorable time, and when he reached New Brunswick he was taken sick. When sufficiently recovered to reach home he complained that he did not know what Providence had against him to interfere with his reaching New York. He had just made \$12 000 on mining stocks, and if he could have reached New York, as he planned, could have made \$8 000 more. But, in spite of all manipulations, the mine was a disappointment. At times it was worked with great zeal and again only appearances were kept up. One captain complained that he was not allowed to dig deep enough,

though they had already gone down 200 feet; another that he was not allowed to dig in the right spot. The most promising ground was pretty well honeycombed.

In 1859 a determined effort was made to galvanize into activity this half dead property. Prof. Montroville Wilson Dickeson, M. D., of Philadelphia, was secured to make a report on the property. He began by calling attention to the favorable location of the flourishing town of Flemington, but he put it 97 miles from New York. Then came the improvements: A permanent and substantial engine house, steam engine of 200 horse power, 3 pumps (2 of 10 and one of 8 inches diameter), crushing and jiggering machinery, abundant supply of water, large brick mansion, 8 miners' houses, office, laboratory, carpenter's and blacksmith's shops and tools, store house and large barn. He made a map, showing the location of 400 acres of land, the mineral right of which they possessed. He says documentary evidence is before him showing that about \$400,000 have been expended in connection with this property independently of the sums applied at an early date in the history of this county, when it was undoubtedly worked for its copper.

Then he tells us something about the geological character of its formation, of this lode in particular, and then has an essay on the true veins, taking us to Virginia, to Cuba, and even to the Ural Mountains, in Russia, and comes around back to Flemington by the way of the Lake Superior copper mines of Michigan. He closes with the declaration that he is satisfied that the Hunterdon County Mining Co.'s property will be found among the most productive and valuable of the kind anywhere, the lode being a true one, and, consequently, nothing more required than a mining knowledge and system, aided by adequate capital, to render it both profitable and valuable. He says lamentable evidences of incapacity pervade the workings, and that however good the property may have been it could not withstand such assaults upon its integrity. Expenditures have been injudicious and wasteful, as the sinking of the meadow shaft to 100 feet at a great distance from the engine and at a point beyond the outcrop, and where there was no more possibility of striking a copper lode than in the Desert of Sahara. He says there exists in this property, in its integrity, a real value that will task the energies for exhaustion of at

least two generations of mankind. This glowing report, some of which is quite bewildering to a layman, does not seem to have helped matters much.

April 3, 1861, there was a riot at these mines. Capt. Girard au lived in fine style at one of the hotels and was very popular with the miners because he drank beer with them and treated them very considerately. Put a new captain was put in charge, instructed to pay off and discharge with a few exceptions all the hands then employed. The miners manifested their indignation by riding the new captain on a rail. The Captain returned to New York and complained of this treatment to the Company. He was sent back with a small force of men to renew operations at the mines. As he landed from the stage in front of the Union House he was greeted with shouts of dislike, but there were no acts of violence then. He set out for the mines that afternoon, but was dissuaded from going by some who had heard serious threats. Next day he started again, this time accompanied by the Sheriff, Robert Thatcher. When they came in sight, the miners commenced riotous conduct again, and presently imprisoned the Sheriff and Captain in the

engine room. This small room was crammed full of miners and their wives, apparently mad enough to tear the Captain in pieces. Tar and feathers and a rail were in readiness for the Captain as soon as he could be taken from the Sheriff, but they were not used, as the Sheriff stood his ground like the brave man he was and protected him from violence. Word was sent to town of the situation of affairs, and Chief Justice Whippley who at the time was holding Court, called upon the citizens to go to the help of the Sheriff. The citizens turned out in number. Squire Miller Kline read the Riot Act and the rioters dispersed. The Sheriff received no injury beyond a little elbowing and squeezing. The Captain lost a good coat, which the miners' wives destroyed for him. Court Crier Nelson W. Abbott was struck on the head but not seriously hurt. Thirteen of the rioters were arrested, tried and fined \$20 each and costs. The ringleader, one Capt. Hicks, who was really responsible for the outbreak, escaped arrest and punishment altogether. He was wily and egotistic and used to brag, "Ht cou'd 'ave 'ad charge of those miners. Ht 'ad the first hoffer. Ht 'ave the hability."

The property went from bad to worse

until, on October 31, 1862, the Sheriff, Robert Thatcher, sold it on complaint of John Gladstone to James Hay. February 29, 1863, he sold it to Allen Hay, and on October 31, 1864, he sold it to the Kent Copper Company, the incorporators of which were New Yorkers except one, and it was again capitalized at one-half million dollars. This was the last effort in which Allen Hay claims to have lost \$100,000. James Graham, owner of *Graham's Magazine* at one time a well known and valuable property, lost a considerable fortune in these mines.

While some men made money by selling the stocks of these various companies, the general drift of the whole operations was toward loss. Every merchant in town lost more or less heavily by extending credit to the miners. The best results ever secured was to produce copper at a cost of over \$1 per pound, when it was 18 cts. in the market.

Dr. C. W. Larison, or Ringoes, who is an undoubted authority on the geology of this region, gives it as his opinion that there is a large and valuable body of copper ore in this region which will be worked at some future day.

If so, it seems unlikely that it will be

found in the grounds that have been worked over. While some of the companies were fraudulent and evidently organized to swindle the unwary, others were honest and used every endeavor to make their property valuable, devoting to it both time and their money, securing competent miners to search, and providing them with all necessary appliances.

In spite of all appearances, there is no true lode, and the pockets are too small to pay for the expense of discovery.

The best ore was found under the brook that ran through the property. Its course was diverted, a great shaft was sunk, and from it galleries were run in all directions, but the great find was never found. Afterwards the brook resumed its natural channel, and this spot came to be known as the "swimming hole," and the best fishing ground in the brook.

October 24, 1866, the property was sold to John Moses, and has since been in private hands. The large brick mansion spoken of is now the property and residence of Capt. John Shields, and is more nearly a mansion than ever before.

I have tried almost every probable place to find a certificate of stock of any of these

eleven companies. One gentleman told me he did have one, but became tired of paying the assessments and gave it back to the company; but at last one certificate has been found, and it is for 50 shares of the Reading Mining Co -- one of the bogus companies -- and was never worth more than the paper it is printed on.

The last of the mine captains was an Englishman by the name of Maynard. He told me that the mines had been "salt d" with ore from Lake Superior, and gave me a sample of it which seems to be solid copper.

Not long since a great hole opened over one of the drifts, so near a residence as to suggest unpleasant possibilities. It happened in the night fortunately, or some one might have been engulfed.

There are portions of the road in the neighborhood which give out ominously hollow sounds as one drives over them and make one wonder whether some heavily loaded wagon will go down some day.

The whole effort was very demoralizing to the town. While it brought some good citizens, it brought many of a very rough character. There was a great deal of carousing, and Saturday nights in particular were made hideous with brawls and drunkenness.

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H. E. DEATS,

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FLEMINGTON, N. J.

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Two Colonels

John Taylor.

THE TWO
COLONELS JOHN TAYLOR.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH,

By Henry Race, M. D.

FLEMINGTON, N. J.,
H. E. Deats,
1892.

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G. W. BURROUGHS,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
CRANBURY, N. J.

106308

In the War of the Revolution there were two John Taylors with the rank of Colonel belonging to the Militia of the Colony of New Jersey, one in the Second Middlesex Regiment and the other in the Fourth Hunterdon.

COL. JOHN TAYLOR, OF MIDDLESEX,

Was born August 1, 1751. He was the only son of Jacob Taylor, of Amboy, N. J., (born Nov. 22, 1729, died in Dec., 1776,) and Rachel, daughter of John Potter, of Springfield, N. J. His grandfather was John Taylor, of Hawes, Bedfordshire, England, (born 1688,) who immigrated to this country in 1739 and settled on the Raritan.

At the age of 19, (1770,) Col. John Taylor

graduated from Princeton College, N. J., and shortly after moved to Brunswick on the invitation of the trustees of Queen's (now Rutgers) College, where he was elected to a professorship in that institution, which position he filled till 1795. He married, in 1781, Jeannette Fitz-Randolph, of Woodbridge, N. J. They had three children, Augustus R., M. D., of New Brunswick, born May 27, 1782; John and Mary.

At the beginning of the Revolution he was chosen a Captain in Col. Neilson's battalion of "Minute Men," enlisted for service wherever required, and held ready to march at a moment's notice. August 16, 1776, he was appointed First Major; and June 6, 1777, Lieut. Colonel in Col. Neilson's 2nd Regiment of Middlesex Militia. In 1779 he was 1st Colonel of the New Jersey State Regiment.

During the war his time appears to have been divided between his duties as a patriot and Colonel of a militia regiment and tl

pertaining to his professorship. In a letter to Governor Livingston, dated "North Branch of Raritan, Sept. 25, 1779," he wrote:

"Sir: It was my intention to have inclosed a return of the number of officers who have joined the State Regiment from each county; and also the deficiencies of each, but not having been able to get the reports of the several companies soon enough, owing to their separate stations, and the necessity of attending the examination of the students of Queen's College, I have, at present, omitted making such a return, but shall transmit it, together with the state of the regiment, as soon as possible. * * * *

* * * * * His Excellency will also recollect that I informed him that I was previously engaged by the trustees of Queen's College, and that it was with great difficulty that I was able to leave the business of the College until the vacation. * * * *

The trustees of Queen's College insisting upon my fulfilling my engagements, I hope

I shall be discharged from the regiment as soon as possible. * * * * *

"I remain, with great respect, your very humble servant,

"JOHN TAYLOR,

"1st Col. New Jersey State Regiment.

"His Excellency Gov'r Livingston."

He and his students were, more than once, obliged to decamp from New Brunswick owing to the proximity of the British forces. The *New Jersey Gazette* of May 5, 1778, announces that "The business of Queen's College in New Jersey, formerly carried on in New Brunswick, is begun at North Branch of Raritan, in the county of Somerset, in a pleasant and retired neighborhood; lodging and board to be had in decent families at £30 per annum. Apply to John Taylor, A. M., tutor at place aforesaid." Another notice in same paper of January 24, 1779, gives information that the "College is still carried on at the North Branch of Raritan, and that the neighborhood is so far distant from head-

quarters that the army does not at least interfere with the business of the College." In 1780 John Taylor, as Clerk of the Faculty, announces that the vacation of Queen's College at Hillsboro (Millstone) is expired and the business again commenced.

The affairs of the College in the Revolution were carried on in an old church built of logs, with a frame addition, which stood near the junction of the North and South Branches of the Raritan river, in Branchburg township, Somerset county, on land now belonging to Mr. John Vosseller, and nearly opposite his residence. It was built in 1718 and completed the following year. It was known as the North Branch Church. The Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen preached the first sermon in it, February 21, 1720. It was yet standing at the time of the Revolution, in a partially dilapidated condition, but sufficiently uninjured to be used for a short time in the exigency then impending. The number of students during the war was not

large, and the curriculum, presumably, was somewhat curtailed.

In 1791 Col. John Taylor removed to Elizabethtown and engaged in teaching the Greek and Latin languages together with Natural Philosophy. In 1794 he was called to teach in the Academy at Schenectady, N. Y., which afterwards developed to Union College. He remained there as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy until his death, which occurred November 8, 1801.

COL. JOHN TAYLOR, OF HUNTERDON,

Was born at Bath, England. Of the date of his birth or immigration to this country we have no means of ascertaining. He married Lydia Kar, and settled on a tract of 400 acres of land situated on the Rockaway creek, between New Germantown and White House. There was a mill on the

property, known from about 1760 to '80 as Taylor's Mill; afterwards as Saxon's; and owned now by Mr. John Lane.

They had three children: Nathaniel Kar Taylor, Catharine Kar Taylor, and Lydia Kar Taylor.

Nathaniel Kar Taylor was born in Readington, June 21, 1769. He went from home as a clerk in a store at White House; and from there to Amboy as clerk for Marsh & Parker, shippers in the West India trade. He was married, March 26, 1802, to Mary, daughter of William Cool and Sarah his wife. They were married at Readington by Rev. Peter O. Studiford. He died at Woodbridge, Middlesex county, August 28, 1823, and was interred at Metuchen. His wife, Mary Cool, was born in Readington, May 14, 1777. She died in New York, April 12, 1823.

Catharine, daughter of Col. John and Lydia Kar Taylor, married, 1784, Rev. William Boyd, who was pastor of the Lamington

Presbyterian Church, Somerset county, from October 20, 1784, to the time of his death, May 17, 1807. They had several children.

Nathaniel K. and Mary (Cool) Taylor had six children: William Cool Taylor, born January 16, 1803; died in Rio Janeiro, March 8, 1842; Lydia Kar Taylor, born January 22, 1805; married Aaron Bloodgood, December 12, 1822; died at Perth Amboy, October 8, 1837; Sarah Ann Taylor, born November 3, 1807; married to Wm. Savidge; died in New York, May 13, 1860; John Taylor, born December 16, 1809; died in New York, January 23, 1848; Catharine Taylor, born April 11, 1812; married William LaForge, of Woodbridge, 1832; died at Perth Amboy, December 1, 1868; Nathaniel Taylor, born November 4, 1814; went on a voyage at sea and never returned.

Under the several acts of the Colonial Legislature and the Continental Congress in 1775 and '76 four Regiments of Militia were organized in Hunterdon county. The Fourth

Regiment was under command of Col. John Mehelm. John Taylor was chosen Captain of one of its companies ; October 28, 1775, he was promoted to the rank of Second Major ; November 27, 1776, he was made a Major in Col. Read's battalion, State troops ; February 17, 1777, Lieut. Colonel in Fourth Hunterdon Regiment ; and May 23, 1777, Colonel of the last named Regiment. (*See Adj. Gen. Stryker's Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolution, pp. 343 and 356.*)

Of his personal military services we have no particular data. The patriots of the Revolution were, for the most part, too actively engaged in making history to find time to write it. It is well known that the New Jersey militia took a very creditable part in the engagements at Quinton's Bridge, Hancock's Bridge, Three Rivers and Connecticut Farms ; and rendered important service in the sanguinary battles of Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, Springfield and Monmouth.

William P. Sutphin, of Bedminster, Som-

erset county, who is well informed as to the early history of his section, states that Col. Taylor was promoted to the rank of General in the militia after the war.

The latter years of this old patriot's life were clouded by financial embarrassment. With too much generosity he became one of the bondsmen for County Collector, Joshua Corshon, who was a defaulter to the amount of £3,121, 811, d6. This, with the depreciation of the Continental currency and shrinkage in values, absorbed his estate. He was prosecuted in the Supreme Court in an action for debt, confessed judgment, execution was issued and Sheriff Jacob Anderson "Levied on Eight Horses twelve Cattle Twenty Sheep one old Negro Man two wenches & three Negro Children Viz two Boys & one Girl one Eight Day Clock one Desk two Tables Six Chairs two Beds and Bedding four Hundred Acres of Land where Sd. Taylor lives part in Tewksberry & part in Readingtown." (*Sheriff Anderson's Docket, p. 39.*)

"C. C. C. & Confined the Genl. in Flemington Goal on the 29th September 1795 & 31st October the Genl. went out of Goal." (*Sheriff Anderson's Docket, p. 94.*)

In civilized countries heroes and patriots have often been distinguished and honored and their memory embalmed in classic eulogy. Such was not the award of this veteran officer. After suffering a faithful soldier's hardships, privations and risk of life in his country's struggle for independence, he was incarcerated in the county prison thirty-one days for the misfortune of pecuniary insolvency.

The date of his death and place of interment we have failed to ascertain.

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James Sterling was born in Coleraine, North of Ireland, Jan. 6, 1742, and at a very early age (presumably 12 years) was brought to America by his uncle, James Hunter, a successful merchant then doing business in Philadelphia, Pa.

Of his parentage nothing definite at present is known but the presumption is that his parents were Scotch Covenanters driven from Scotland through opposition to their religion into the North of Ireland many of whom settled at Coleraine. They must have been very devout Presbyterians from the fact that we find James Sterling in early life to have been a strict Presbyterian, living up to the rules of his faith not only at church but in every walk of life and his home.

His uncle watched over him with the care of a wise father, instilled in him the virtues of a successful business career and guided his course to the age of maturity when he was fitted most wisely to enter upon the duties of an active business life.

Without capital, but with keen business tact, honesty of purpose and determined to succeed he started in life when between 21 and 22 years of age to prove that success should be his by careful attention to every detail.

His uncle quietly went to the merchants with whom he was dealing at the time and informed them that his nephew was about to embark in business for himself without capital, but being possessed of those qualifications of a successful business man he would be responsible for any debts incurred but that he should not be so informed of the fact, as he wished to see how judiciously he would invest on the start.

From merchant to merchant he imparted this information entirely unknown to James

Sterling, who when he made known his wants with explanations of his limited means, was informed that he could have all the credit desired, a fact that seemed to impress him greatly, for he refused to purchase other than in just sufficient quantities to stock a very small store, believing it would be easier to buy a fresh stock rather than to run in debt for quantities that he had no means of paying for, without selling at a profit what he had ventured to buy on the start.

His sagacity in buying and strict attention to business methods, honesty in his dealings with all classes and promptness in paying his bills soon laid for him the foundation of a very large and prosperous business.

In starting in life he determined to break loose from the city of Philadelphia which gave him his business education and seek a place in which he could command a clientage of his own. He looked over several locations and finally settled in Burlington, N. J., then one of the most prosperous towns in

New Jersey and the centre of travel between New York and Philadelphia.

His uncle James Hunter thought it a very poor selection, but James Sterling soon convinced him that he had looked the ground over carefully and made an excellent selection.

James Sterling first started in business about the year 1762 or 1763 in the property situated on the upper side of Main street in the store now occupied by Bowen's confectionery and fruit store and remained there for several years. Finding business very good he finally located on the Main street, opposite Union street, where from time to time he enlarged his store as required, and his stock also. His business increased so rapidly that his store was the centre of all trade not only for Burlington county, but the surrounding country, and he was known from Sussex to Cape May.

Amusing incidents are told of his business career and it was a well known fact that nothing could be asked for he did not have

...the interest in getting out of the country with
a minimum of trouble and delay.

...the interest in getting out of the country with
a minimum of trouble and delay.

...the interest in getting out of the country with
a minimum of trouble and delay.

...the interest in getting out of the country with
a minimum of trouble and delay.

in stock. I give two of the most amusing as then related:

"A party of gentlemen bent on fun made a wager of half dozen bottles of wine that James Sterling kept everything and that nothing could be asked for that he could not supply.

"The wager was taken, the party adjourned to the store of James Sterling finding that gentleman in, walking up and down the store looking over his stock with his quick and discerning eyes. He asked, 'well gentlemen what can I do for you?' The question was put, 'have you any goose yokes?' 'Oh yes gentlemen, how many will you have? A single one, by the pair or by the dozen?' And calling to one of his clerks, bid him to run up stairs and bring down those goose yokes and show them to the gentlemen. It was not necessary, for the laugh was given, the joke appreciated and the wine duly partaken of."

The other incident which well illustrates his varied assortment is as follows:

"The trustees of the old church of which he was a member had decided to make some alterations and remodel the altar and surroundings which included a new pulpit ; the old one being removed to James Sterling's store-house unknown to the general public. In conversation in a public place some gentlemen were discussing the merits of James Sterling's wonderful store and various things to be found there, when one declared that he could ask for an article that it was impossible to have in any store ready made. The bet was taken and it was agreed that a dinner for the party should be the result of the same. The party adjourned to the store and were conducted by James Sterling to his store-house, where he showed them to their surprise and astonishment, the pulpit from the old church.

"It was the talk of the town for many a year to come, and soon became a common by-word that James Sterling kept everything that had been or could be asked for, and proven on several occasions."

As a merchant and man of business he was equalled by few. He conducted his affairs on a very large and extensive scale with great diligence, perseverance, punctuality and integrity, for more than fifty years. Possibly no other man in the State of New Jersey transacted as much business in the mercantile line with more honor, general approbation and satisfaction to those with whom he had dealings.

He retired from active business previous to the Revolutionary war, bought a valuable farm in Salem county and furnished it with stock and everything necessary to a complete farm.

He moved on his farm with pleasant anticipations but could not rest while such stirring times were passing and soon made himself very useful in the cause of Liberty.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war he was a Justice of the Peace under Royal Authority, but when England declared that the Colonies were no longer under his Majesty's protection he very justly con-

cluded that where there was no protection there could be no obligations to allegiance. He then took a very active part in the American cause as a firm and zealous Whig.

Family tradition says that he was the captain of a company that he fitted out at his own expense and went with the company to Staten Island and other places, in the public service.

He risked his reputation, his fortune and his all in the support of the Independence of the United States. In the Minutes of the Provincial Congress and Council of Safety 1775-76, of the State of New Jersey pages 51 and 52: "Burlington Committee it was resolved that in pursuance of the eleventh article of the said Association a Committee of Observation for the city and county be now appointed for the purpose in that article mentioned," and James Sterling leads the list of thirty-three prominent men, "the committee to be continued for one year from Tuesday, Feb. 14th, 1775."

"Officers and men of New Jersey in the

Revolutionary War," by William S. Stryker: I find on page 339 from Burlington county. First Regiment, James Sterling, Second Major. On page 369 I find James Sterling, Second Major, First Regiment, Burlington county, September 28th, 1776.

About the close of the war he returned to Burlington, where he continued to reside till the close of his life, and again went into the mercantile business.

He accumulated a large estate and generally was favored with good health and strong constitution. But the last three years of his life he was a man of much affliction, suffering greatly with aggravated hemorrhoids from which he died.

In his civil and political life he exercised the same great intellect which was shown in his business career holding the following important offices:

"Civil List 1784-1851" Mayors of Burlington. James Sterling was the third Mayor of the city of Burlington, 1801-1806, succeeding Joseph Bloomfield the second Mayor, 1795-

1800, who was Governor of New Jersey 1801-1802 and again 1803-1812.

"Alderman and Commonalty list," Burlington, James Sterling heads the list as first in that line 1785-1794.

"Common Council." He served in this body from 1810 to 1811.

HIS RELIGIOUS LIFE.

His mother was a pious member of the Presbyterian church, by whose examples and admonitions he had early religious impressions which he put into active practice after starting for himself in business. He withdrew from such company as might be hurtful to him and formed but few new acquaintances excepting as might be of advantage to him.

He was a Presbyterian of the old school when he married Mary Shaw, of Burlington, who was an Episcopalian. They mutually agreed to make no difficulty on points of religion, difference in opinions or forms, but

to have the worship of God in their house and family.

About the year 1771 he heard Rev. Francis Asbury, great Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Society, at which time he was brought under deep awakenings and heart convictions. He then became a constant hearer of the Methodist preachers and soon after became a member of that society, and for a long time was a member of both the Presbyterian and Methodist societies.

He stood high in the world, a man of fortune and respectability, but the Methodists at that time were composed principally of the poorer classes and looked upon with distrust and disrespect. He however, continued to be a member of both societies until objection was raised by the Presbyterians to his communing with them from his connection with the Methodists.

The Session was divided some in favor of and some against his continuing with them as he had done. His certificate had been presented from a sister church ; they could

find no fault with his life, except that he associated with the Methodists and must give up one or the other. For the sake of peace and harmony he withdrew from the Presbyterians and devoted his time, purse and energy to the building up of the Methodist faith not only in Burlington but other parts of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. He was a great friend to all the ministers of the Methodist faith, his home being the headquarters for all of that denomination, and frequently he entertained from 50 to 100 at one time at his home. His heart went out to all, his purse was always open to a minister, and he did great service as a layman and in building places of worship for the Methodists.

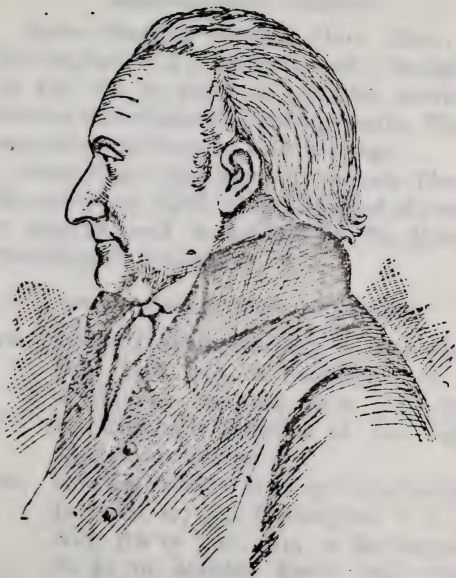
"History of Burlington and Mercer counties" by E. M. Woodward, pages 22, 123, 126, 127, 128, 133, 134, 154, 156, 157, 158, 161, all refer to James Sterling and his sons.

A lengthy obituary notice of James Sterling was published in *The American Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, Jan. 19th, 1818, by the

Rev. Ezekiel Cooper, a life long friend.

"Memorials of Methodism of New Jersey," 1860, by the Rev. John Atkinson. James Sterling's portrait occupies the front of the book, while pages 152 to 164 give a sketch of his services as a Methodist layman, and his name is frequently mentioned on the pages.

"Methodism in America," by Lednum, also "History of the Methodist Episcopal church," by Abel Stevens, two volumes, 1864, all give interesting accounts of James Sterling as one who rendered great service to the Methodist church in New Jersey.



James Sterling.

GENEALOGICAL RECORD.

James Sterling married Mary Shaw, of Burlington, N. J., Oct. 20th, 1768. He being 26 and she 17 years of age, the marriage license was obtained in Pennsylvania. There were nine children by this marriage.

Mary Shaw died about 12 o'clock Thursday morning, April 19th, 1785, aged 36 years, 7 months, and is interred in St. Mary's churchyard, Burlington, N. J.

CHILDREN BY FIRST MARRIAGE.

- 1st. James Hunter Sterling, b. Thursday, Sept. 14th, 1769, at Burlington, N. J., d. Sunday morning, Sept. 9th, 1798, m. Elizabeth Robbins, (d. Jan. 24th, 1832), two children.
- 2d. Elizabeth Salter Sterling, b. Saturday, July 6th, 1771, at Burlington, N. J., d. Aug. 5th or 15th, 1815, at Burlington, N. J., m. Mahlon Budd 1794? Two children?
- 3d and 4th. Twins. James and Mary Sterling, b. Saturday P. M., June 19th, 1773,

at Burlington, N. J., and died about two hours after birth.

5th. Samuel Shaw Sterling, b. May 9th, 1774, at Burlington, N. J., d. Friday, April 1st, 1808, unmarried, at Burlington, N. J.

6th. William Sterling, b. Thursday, Oct. 17th, 1776, at Burlington, N. J., d. Saturday, Sept. 22d, 1781, Burlington, N. J.

7th. Archibald Sterling, b. Thursday, Sept. 26th, 1780, at Burlington, N. J., m. Mary Ann —? d. about 1830? Five children?

8th. John Wesley Sterling, b. Friday, Oct. 11th, 1782, at Burlington, N. J., d. Monday, Aug. 16th, 1852, near Trenton, N. J., m. Ann Woodward Feb. 29th, 1804. Six children.

9th. Margaret Sterling, b. Tuesday, April 12th, 1785, d. March 26th, 1856, m. John Johnston, June 5th, 1805. Five children.

Through the first marriage I have recorded only so far as I have been able to trace, with the following results :

Nine children, twenty grandchildren, twenty-eight greatgrandchildren, forty-nine greatgreatgrandchildren, and twenty great-greatgreatgrandchildren. Total, 126.*

James Sterling married Rebecca Budd (the 10th child of Wm. Budd, the 3d and Susanah Cole his wife who were married April 6th, 1738, born Sept. 27th, 1760, at New Mills, now Pemberton, N. J.,) at Good Luck, N. J. meeting-house, Nov. 13th, 1785.

Rebecca Budd Sterling died June 10th, 1841, 8 P. M., aged 80 years, 8 months and 15 days, at her residence in Burlington, N. J. She was among the first fruits of Methodism in New Jersey. About 1779, she joined the society, that being more than five years before the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church.

* NOTE.—There are a great many descendents to be accounted for as I have no record at all of Archibald's family, few records of Margaret's, and I will be very glad to hear from any member of either branch that can help me on the same as to the decendents of the above named children.



Rebecca Budd Sterling.

James Sterling died Jan. 6th, 1818, at Burlington, N. J., 76 years of age, greatly beloved and respected by all who knew him. His tombstone bears the following inscription :

He who is rich in Sovereign Mercy,
Has called him from works to rewards.
In life he was esteemed and in death lamented.
His friends and society generally have sustained
An irreparable loss in his infinite gain,
Therefore they sorrow not as those who have no hope.

He died in the triumphs of faith, and he left the following lines to be engraved on this sacred stone :

"Christ to me as life on earth
And death to me is gain
Because I trust through him alone
Salvation to obtain."

CHILDREN BY SECOND MARRIAGE.

- 1st. William Asbury Sterling, b. Friday, Aug. 11th, 1786, d. Thursday, March 12th, 1811, at Burlington, N. J.
- 2d. Thomas Chew Sterling, b. Friday, April 4th, 1788, d. Nov. 18th, 1854, Trenton, N. J., m. Edith Wetherby

- June 13th, 1811, (died May 19th, 1876,
Trenton, N. J.) Four children.
- 3d. Mary Shaw Sterling, b. Saturday, Dec.
5th, 1789, d. Dec. 7th, 1870, at Phila-
delphia, Pa., m. Charles E. Hollins-
head, Oct. 20th, 1813. Six children.
- 4th. Joseph Sterling, b. Monday, Jan. 30th,
1792, d. Nov. 14th, 1863, Trenton, N. J.,
m. Sarah Hamilton, of Philadelphia,
Pa., Sept. 14th, 1815, (b. July 9th, 1787,
d. Dec. 6th, 1866, Trenton, N. J.)
Seven children.
- 5th. Benjamin Sterling, b. Sunday, April
6th, 1794, d. Feb. 13th, 1822, Burling-
ton, N. J., m. 1st Rebecca Elkinton,
Jan. 2d, 1817, (d. Feb. 18th, 1818), m.
2d Elizabeth Fenton, April 19th, 1819,
(d. Nov. 26th, 1845, Bristol Pa.) One
child.
- 6th. Budd Sterling, b. Monday, April 18th,
1796, d. Friday, Sept. 18th, 1863, m.
Eliza Wright, May 2d, 1817, (d. Feb.
17th, 1868.) Nine children.



Susannah Van Amringe.

7th. Susannah Budd Sterling, b. June 11th, 1798; d. Friday, Dec. 4th, 1891, Brooklyn, N. Y. She attained the greatest age of any of the children either by the first or second marriage, retaining her faculties until the day of her death. Married Wm. Frederick Van Amringe Oct. 7th, 1818, (b. May 22d, 1791, Parish of Basanhale, city of London, England, d. March 16th, 1873, New York city.) Twelve children.

8th. Rebecca Budd Sterling, b. May 5th, 1801, m. 1st, Wm. Cowperthwaite, Dec. 5th, 1821, one child; m. 2d, Rev. John S. Porter, Feb. 12th, 1834, (b. Aug. 23d, 1805, Green Hill, Md., d. Burlington, N. J., Oct. 2d, 1890.) Three children.

Mrs. Rebecca Budd Sterling Porter, (widow of the Rev. John S. Porter, D. D.,) living at Burlington, N. J. with her son John Samuel Porter in the 92nd year of her age, is a remarkably brilliant old lady and very widely known especially among the Methodists in New Jersey.



Mrs. Rebecca Porter.



James Sterling.

9th. James Sterling, b. Thursday, July 7th, 1803, m. 1st, Caroline E. Fennimore, Dec. 1st, 1830, (d. Friday, Feb. 9th, 1855, Burlington, N. J.,) m. 2d, Amelia L. Porter, Tuesday, Nov. 9th, 1858. Four children.

James Sterling the youngest child, now in his 90th year, is living at present in Philadelphia with his two daughters Caroline and Florence, in the full enjoyment of all his faculties, and is a very remarkable and active old gentleman, a pleasing and agreeable conversationalist, and glad at all times to meet his friends and talk over old times.

He has held many important positions of trust and has been a man of great influence as the following record will show :

Woodward's "History of Burlington and Mercer counties."

Page 128. Served in Common Council 1826, 1835-36, 1839.

- " 127. Collector 1838, 1869-70.
- " 127. Assessor 1872-74.
- " 127. Township Committee 1837.
- " 134. Director of the Mechanics Bank, of Burlington, April 26th, 1839, until 1850, when he was appointed the third Cashier June 14th, 1850, which he held until he resigned in January, 1869.
- " 134. Third clerk to the bank June 21st, 1845, to 1850.
- " 156. March 11th, 1853, he was appointed on the Board of Trustees of the Union M. E. Church, also Treasurer, which offices he filled for about 13 years, and he was Steward until 1874.

By the second marriage I have recorded only those decendants I have been able to trace at the present writing, which are, nine children, forty-seven grandchildren, eighty-four greatgrandchildren, seventy greatgreat-grandchildren, four greatgreatgreatgrandchildren. Total, 214.

Then we have by both marriages, eighteen children, sixty-seven grandchildren, one hundred and twelve greatgrandchildren, one hundred and nineteen greatgreatgrandchildren, twenty-four greatgreatgreatgrandchildren. Total, 340.

My Genealogical Register is by no means complete, and I will thank all those who are in any way connected with the Sterling family in its collateral branches to furnish me with such dates of births, marriages and deaths as are in their possession, and any other information relative to the Sterling family in America.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 2d, 1893.

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HISTORY
OF THE
READINGTON SCHOOL,
FORMERLY CALLED
HOLLAND BROOK SCHOOL,
1804—1897.
BY JOHN FLEMING.

FLEMINGTON, N. J.:

H. E. DEATS.

1898.

*Read before the Hunterdon County
Historical Society at its Semi-
Annual Meeting, held at French-
town, N. J., July 10th, 1897
Published in the Hunterdon County
Democrat May 10th, 1898, and now
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Robert J. Killgore.*

106308

When a school was first established at what is now the village of Readington, is not known. An article in Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties says, "It is said there was a school near the village a short distance North-west of the mill long before the Revolution "

By reference to the registry of Special Deeds for the County of Hunterdon, Vol. 1, page 95, we find that under an act of the Legislature passed November 27, 1794, Abraham Post, William Spader, Adrian Stryker, Peter Quick, Cornilus Van Horne, Peter Ten Brook, Isaac Brokaw, Abraham Smock, William Ditmars, William Dalley, Andrew Mattis and Derrick Demott, employers of the Readington School, met at the house of Peter Ten Brook, August 4 1804, and voted unanimously in favor of incorporating themselves.

At the same meeting five of their number were chosen Trustees, and their acceptance

of the office reads as follows: "We, the under subscribers, certify under our hands and seals that we have taken upon ourselves to be Trustees in the Holland Brook School, near Readington meeting house, agreeably to an act of Assembly passed 27th day of November, 1798.

William Spader, L. S.

William Ditmars, L. S.

Cornelius Van Horne, L. S.

William Dalley, L. S.

Aug. 4, 1804 Derrick Demott, L. S."

The first recorded meeting (of which we have no date) was for the making of rules and regulations governing the Trustees. The term of office was fixed for one year. The manner of notification of an election for Trustees was by posting notice on the door of the school house or by giving personal notice. At a meeting held March 30, 1805, the Trustees met and chose Cornelius Van Horne, President, and William Ditmars, Secretary. The business done at this meeting was the making of rules and regulations for the government of the School.

Of the twelve named incorporators only the names of Smock, Dalley and Mattis are now found in the District. No account of any meeting being held is recorded until May 25, 1838, when it was resolved to elect three Trustees, and John S. Hoagland, John P. Voorhees and Bergen Brokaw were chosen.

In May, 1838, Isalah P. Large, Joseph Thompson and Washington Skillman, School Committee of Readington Township, with R. S. Smith, T. A. Hartwell and A. Martin, of Bridgewater Township (Somerset Co.), fixed the boundaries of the District. January 10, 1840, Dr. Josiah Quimby, John C. Lane and Joseph Thompson were appointed a committee to draft a new constitution. They reported April 6, 1840. It was adopted and although ordered to be recorded, is not found in the minutes. One of its articles probably was that five trustees may be elected, as for some years that number was chosen. In May, 1851, Joseph Thompson, School Superintendent of Readington Township, George W. Vroom, School Superintendent of Branchburg Township, and Lewis Kiple, Herman Hageman and John S. Berger, Trustees of the school, fixed the boundaries of the district and the name was changed from Holland Brook School to that of Readington School, as is recorded in the Clerk's Office of Hunterdon County, in Vol. 3 of Special Deeds, pages 130-1-2.

In June, 1851, a new constitution was adopted.

In June, 1867, a portion of this district with portions of others was taken to form a new district which was called Harlan. The new district existed till 1877 when it was disbanded, and the portion which was taken

from Readington was set back to 1st.

In 1887 Harlan was re-organized and a larger portion than before was taken from Readington to help form Harlan and the boundaries of the district remained unaltered until 1894, when under the school law passed that year the district ceased to exist as a corporation. It is now known as School No. 4, Readington Township. By the school census of May, 1897, it numbered 73 scholars between the ages of 5 and 18 years.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

We have no evidence when the first school house was built or where it stood. It is certain that there had been one for a time before 1804 and that it stood where the present one stands. It was a frame building 16 by 20 with a low board ceiling, and stood in the forks of the road on the South-west side of Holland's Brook, with the play grounds in the road as at present.

There were forms around the walls and heavy slabs for seats. This was used as a school house till 1839, when it was sold to John Morehead who used part of the timber in building a tenant house which is still standing and occupied by W. S. Reed.

In 1839 the present school house was built. It is a two-story building, 30 feet long, 21 feet wide, and was erected at a cost of \$704 58. It also had forms around the walls,

but in 1854 they were taken out and seats with castings were put in and are still used

For a number of years a teacher was employed in each room, but since 1856 only one teacher has been employed. The lower room is now used for school purposes and the upper part for prayer meeting and Y. P. S. C. E. meeting.

The minutes state that the school house may be used for prayer meeting and Sunday School, also 'hat it shall not be used for the purpose of a singing school. This caused dissatisfaction, as a portion of the district claimed a legal right to hold a singing school in the house and at a public meeting it was agreed that from and after the next annual meeting for the election of trustees, it should be left to the trustees from year to year whether the house shall be used to hold a singing school, and if they sanctioned it, then to determine the time, afternoon or evening, in order that the disagreeable necessity of frequent meetings may be avoided. Under the school law of 1894 the Board of Education of the township has given permission to hold religious meetings in their school houses. but for other purposes as the member of the Board representing the school sees best.

TEACHERS

In those early days there were no school

districts as now. When a teacher wanted a school the custom was for him to canvass a neighborhood to see how many scholars he could get to attend. If enough signed to make it pay, he was the teacher. The salary was a certain sum per scholar and board around among his employers. As this school had rules and regulations for its government, the teacher was required to sign them, showing his willingness to comply therewith. That those of this day may know how a school was conducted nearly a century ago, they are here given.

Rules and regulations for the government of the Holland Brook School:

As order is requisite for the prosperity of every society, it must be particularly for that which it has in view—the training up of children to render them useful and respectable as members of civil and religious communities, the following rules have therefore been agreed to for the government of the afore-said school:

1st. As spelling is the foundation of good reading and therefore essential to the scholars, It shall be the duty of the teacher, every morning and evening, at the close of the school to make all those who can spell to stand up in regular order and spell out of the book, each his word, so much as the teacher may think proper

2d. It shall be the duty of the teacher to

see that those who write, keep their copy books neat and clean, that they may be shown to the trustees of the school on the last Saturday of every quarter, if not every month.

3d. It shall be the duty of the teacher to make the cipherers commit well to memory the different rules of arithmetic, and when the trustees attend, to examine them on said rules if they request it

4th. It shall be the duty of the teacher to make readers read slow and distinct, and attend to the stops and marks.

5th. It shall be the duty of the teacher to open school from the first day of April to the first day of November, every morning at eight o'clock or as near as possible to that hour and every afternoon at two o'clock, and from the first of November to the first of April every morning at nine o'clock and every afternoon at half past one. During the former six months to keep the school in four hours in the morning and three in the afternoon. All which rules I, the teacher, submit to, subjecting myself to removal from the school by the trustees if I do not, with pay only for the time of having taught.

Amendments to the Constitution of the Holland Brook School to proceed after Article 4th:

5th. It shall be the duty of the teacher to open school from the first day of April to the

first day of November every morning at eight o'clock and every afternoon at two o'clock, and from the first day of November to the first day of April at nine o'clock in the morning and every afternoon at one o'clock, or as near as possible to the aforesaid hours, during the former months to keep the school in eight hours each day, and the latter in six hours each day.

6th. It shall be the duty of the teacher to keep strict rules and good order in the said school, but not to make use of any unreasonable or unlawful means so as to have the children abused.

7th. It shall be the duty of the teacher to refrain from spirituous liquors while engaged in this school, and not to enter the school house while intoxicated, nor lose any time through such intemperance.

8th. No teacher shall enter the school unless his article be first examined by the trustees, to ascertain a sufficient number of scholars.

All which rules I the said teacher agree to submit to, together with the foregoing rules and the amendment, subjecting myself to remove from the said school by the trustees if I do not, with pay only for the time of having taught.

The above rules continued in force till 1851 when a new Constitution was adopted.

The first teacher to comply with these

rules was Tunis TenEyck and his compliance is dated April 9, 1806. After him was M. Flannery, who taught but a short time. - The next was John H. Cooper, who stayed nearly ten years. He was succeeded by Harry B. Knox, then Zalmon Taylor, George Urquhart, Lewis Dunn, Philip Tunison, Rodney T. Hyde. Mr. Hyde taught at Pleasant Run before he came to Readington, and a few years ago the writer was informed that while Mr. Hyde was there a Sunday School was started, and he having the keys of the school house and being not friendly to Sunday Schools, refused to open the door, so other means were used and after that there was no more trouble from him.

After Mr. Hyde came William Armstrong, George W. Phelps and Joseph Thompson. Of the latter little need be said, as he was known to many. He filled various positions of honor afterward. While he was School Superintendent in 1855, he conceived the idea of having a picnic of all the schools of the township. The picnic was a success. Several of the State officials were present and made short addresses. In 1834 Jacob G. Schomp took charge of the school. For more than 50 years he and Mr. Thompson lived in the district and their funerals were largely attended. Mr. Thompson died in 1893, and Mr. Schomp died October, 1896.

Amy S. Lundy, the next teacher, was the

first female to teach here. After her was Francis Hastings. Joseph Thompson again taught, but this time during the Winter only. In the Spring John Simonson took charge. He afterward became a minister in the Reformed (Dutch) Church. He was the last who taught in the old school house.

In 1839 the present school building was erected and the first to teach in it was Elizabeth W. Lundy, sister to the Miss Lundy who taught here in 1835. After her were H. T. B. Spader, Jas. Otterson, Jr., F. D. Lord, Ripley T. Martin, Margaret Vosseller, now living in Somerville; Joseph House, Elizabeth B. Owen, Whitlock N. Harvey and Peter I. Voorhees. Mr. Voorhees, after teaching a few years at other places in the neighborhood, went to farming, was successful, and died in 1889. The next teacher was Elizabeth Webb. A few months after she began teaching a new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. This also required the teacher to sign before he began. The part relating to the teacher is as follows:

Art. 3, Sec. 4. The trustees shall cause every teacher before he or she enters on the duties of teaching to subscribe to the following rules concerning teachers, and for a non-compliance without the consent of the trustees, may dismiss said teacher at any time, with pay only for the time taught.

Art. 4, Sec. 1. The teachers shall keep the

school open seven hours in each day, between the first of April and the first of October, and six hours between the first of October and the first of April following. the time of opening and the length of the noon vacation to be regulated by the teacher with the consent of the trustees.

Sec. 2. The teacher shall keep good order in said school, but shall not use any unreasonable means for that purpose.

Sec. 3 The trustees shall take such oversight of the school as may be necessary, and see that no class of learners are neglected in their lessons or recitations

Sec. 4. No teacher shall be allowed to teach in this district school house without the consent of the majority of the trustees, and no teacher shall be allowed to teach more than four weeks without a license first had and obtained according to law.

Sec. 5. Every teacher shall keep seventy days for a quarter and shall vacate one day in every two weeks.

Art. 5. The trustees or any one of them for improper conduct may be expelled from office at any time by the votes of two thirds of taxable inhabitants present in favour of said expulsion, notice having been given him or them in writing five days previous of such intention.

The first teacher to sign the new rules was Eleanor S. TenEyck, and her compliance is

dated Sept. 30, 1851.

Then Conrad Simonson. E. W. Merritt, who afterward became a preacher and when last heard of was living in Connecticut; Gilbert Lane, who also taught here some years afterward; John S. Amerman, S. F. Voorhees, Henry Lane, John N. Voorhees and Peter I. Voorhees. (The last five or six may not be in the correct order.) John N. Voorhees taught a select school at Middlebush some years afterward. Stephen Wever, after teaching a few years, went to farming and died near South Branch. Sylvester Robins now lives near North Branch Depot. Henry R. Martin was the last one to sign the rules, but a few who are named did not. W. T. F. Ayers was afterwards County Superintendent of Schools of Somerset county, and died a year or two ago. Rev. William I. Thompson, formerly principal of the Preparatory School, Rutgers College, and Amos H. Kennedy, (both dead.) John C. Holder, the first teacher under the school law of 1867, now lives in Plainfield. Levi Fleming, died 1875. Jane Fleming, Mina N. Rockafellow. These two are living near Readington. Anna E. Sutphin, Mary E. Honnell, Jane Fleming, Rev. Gilbert Lane, who afterward received a call from a church, died at Montague, 1896; Mina N. Rockafellow, William A. Hoffman, living at present in Kansas; Robins Fleming, now in the em-

ploy of the Berlin Iron Bridge Co., and living at New Britain, Connecticut; Joanna S. Wack, George Fleming, now principal of the Academy at Junction; Emma Wyckoff, Nora Bunn, living near Readington; Kate Van DerBeek, Nora Bunn Gano, (Miss Nora Bunn married while here) Bertha Smith, living in South Dakota; Lillie Cole, living near Readington, and who has been engaged to teach the school the coming year, beginning Sept. 6th, 1897, and Peter B. Hall, Neshauc Station.

Under the school law of 1894 we have had Helen B. Waite, living in Trenton; Hattie Swackhammer, now living at Califon; J. B. Maugham, now teaching at Bernardsville, and Mari B. Rudebec, now at Ringoes.

George Fleming started the Public School Library and additions were made to it each year while he was teacher.

Arbor Day was first observed here with appropriate exercises, and also Columbus Day, (1892) when Lillie Cole was teacher.

SCHOLARS.

This paper would not be complete without some reference to those who were pupils in this school. Several of them became teachers and were successful. As we look at the past, memory recalls the names of not less than twenty-five. Joseph Thompson had three sons and a daughter who were teachers. John B., the oldest son,

(now living in Trenton, N. J.,) in his younger days was an active member of the first and second Teachers' Institutes held in New Jersey, at Somerville in 1849 and 1850. He also assisted in organizing the first Teachers' Institute in Hunterdon county, in 1855. A few years later he graduated from Rutgers Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, and has been pastor of several churches. In 1870 the degree of D. D. was conferred on him, and in 1896 he was chosen Moderator of the General Synod of the Reformed Church of America. Henry P. Thompson was pastor of the Reformed Church at Peapack published a history of that church, and a few years later a history of the church at Readington. Abraham Thompson was pastor of a Reformed Church in New York City at the time of his death. He and his brother Henry P. are buried in the cemetery at Readington. Their sister, who was a teacher, now lives in Pella, Iowa.

Other scholars, who in after life were ministers of the Reformed Church, were Gilbert Lane, Andrew Hageman, now at Belleville; Herman Hageman, High Falls, N. Y.; John L. Stillwell, Bloomingburg, N. Y.; William B. Voorhees, (deceased,) and Elias W. Thompson, (a grandson of Joseph Thompson) now at Paterson. The writer has heard the nine ministers named preach

in the church at Readington.

In the profession of the law Readington is represented by John Schomp, who died in 1895, and John L. Connet, of Flemington. Andrew Fleming (father of the writer) while living in Cedar Grove School District (Somerset county) sent three of his children to school here. These three (Jane, George and Robins) and their brother, Levi, taught here afterwards. In 1884 Mr. Fleming moved to Readington, and a grand-daughter living with him attended school here, and is now teaching near Pennington. Mr. Fleming had five children and four grand-children who were teachers.

Those who took up the practice of medicine were William D. Quimby and Aaron L. Stillwell.

Peter G. Schomp, President, and Aaron J. Thompson, Secretary, of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Assurance Association of New Jersey, were members of the school.

Many of our scholars became teachers, and some of them have taught the Readington school.

From what is written it can be seen that from our school, rural as it is, there have gone forth as large a number of pupils who have become influential members in the church and neighborhood as may be found in any other.

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H. E. DEATS,

PUBLISHER,

FLEMINGTON, N. J.

Tucca-

Ramma-

Hacking.

TUCCA-RAMMA-HACKING.

BY E. VOSSELLER.

FLEMINGTON, N. J.

H. E. DEATS,

1901.

GEORGE W. BURROUGHS, PRINTER,
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FROM the high ground near the middle of Morris Co., two little streams start on their winding way to the ocean. One takes a zigzag southerly course into Somerset Co., the other with a great sweep to the southwest into Hunterdon Co., makes a turn which causes it to run north for some miles from its mouth, though its first few miles are almost exactly south. About four miles north of Somerville in Somerset Co., these two streams, the North Branch and the South Branch unite and form the Raritan. The neighborhood where these streams join, the Indians called Tucca-Ramma-Hacking, meaning the flowing together of waters.

Of this region Cornelius Van Tienhoven, Secretary of the New Netherlands writing in 1650 says,

"This is the handsomest and pleasantest country that man can behold. It furnished the Indians with abundance of maize, beans, pumpkins, and other fruits. It was abandoned by them for two reasons. First finding themselves unable to resist the southern Indians, they migrated further inland. Second this country was flooded every spring, frequently destroying their supply of maize, stored in holes under ground."

Along these beautiful meadows the red man fished and hunted finding an ample supply. Here he wooed his dusky mate. Here his boys learned the use of bow and arrow, and stone ax. Here his girls learned the gentler arts of housekeeping and of providing grain and fruits for winter. Here he ate and drank and slept ; what then ? He ate and drank and slept again, with little incentive beyond, except some time to reach the happy hunting grounds.

But there came a day when the Dutch invasion from Long Island pushing up the Raritan reached this region and tract after tract of their lands went out of their possession. But let it be remembered

that these lands were always bought, and never stolen from the Indians.

“It is a proud fact in the history of New Jersey that every foot of her soil has been obtained from the Indians by fair and voluntary purchase and transfer, a fact that no other state of the Union, not even the land that bears the name of Penn can boast of.” So said Samuel L. Southard, New Jersey’s most brilliant Senator who reached the unique distinction of being an United States Senator while his father was a Congressman. On the same occasion, Sha-wus kukh-kung an educated Delaware said “Not a drop of our blood have you spilled in battle, not an acre of our land have you taken but by our consent.”

The prosaic name for Tucca-Ramma-Hacking was Two Bridges. These spanned the North Branch near its mouth, the first, as you go toward Somerville, reaching to a little island about two-thirds the way across and the shorter one landing you on the east side of the river. These seemed a sufficient warrant for the name, but tradition says the name referred to the fact that there was a

bridge also over the South Branch near its mouth to accommodate a road running up the south side of the Raritan. It is unlikely. In that case they would have called the place Three Bridges.

In the early days the great market for this section and the country west of it was New Brunswick. There was a great deal of travel over these bridges, the farmers hauling their grain to New Brunswick and bringing back provisions of various sorts. The first house over the bridge towards Somerville was kept as a tavern. Of course that house has disappeared, but in a new house a little further back from the river, our old time Flemington neighbor, Elisha Kuhl, successfully cultivates one of those splendid Tucca-Ramma-Hacking farms where "the valleys stand so thick with corn, they laugh and sing."

Before these bridges were built the stream was forded a little below where the bridges afterward stood. A woman on horseback from the neighborhood of Readington crossed over one morning to do some errand below, and on her return the stream had risen so much as to be dangerous and she was

advised at the tavern not to try to cross. She said she must get home for she had left her little baby there in the morning and she must get back to it. So she made the attempt, but the cruel waters swept horse and rider out into the Raritan and both were drowned.

The following extract from the deed, taken from the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery, relates to the part of these lands lying at the mouth of the South Branch.

"That Paywassen, Indian, by his deed dated Aug. 14, 1688 for the consideration therein named did sell to the Proprietors of East Jersey, a tract of land beginning at Holland's Brook and from thence as the river runs to the meeting of the branches of the Raritan and to run as far back as the said Paywassen and other Indians their lands run as by the said deed, recorded in Liber B. page 531."

In 1716 Andreas Ten Eyck bought the north half of this tract, about 275 acres. His son Col. Abraham and wife Sarah were buried on a bluff on this farm about one hundred yards back

from the mouth of the South Branch, as if they were loath to be carried away from these beautiful surroundings. It is stated on their tomb-stones that Col. Abraham Ten *Eick* died Nov. 1812 aged 81 years and 331 days, and that Sarah wife of Col. Abraham Ten *Eyck* died Jan. 2, 1811, aged 101 years and nine months, showing that she was her husband's senior by nineteen years.

Col. Abraham's grandson Andrew Ten Eyck who lived here, was very fond of show. He kept many fine horses, wagons and carriages with harness and whips to match. If he had occasion to do a little trading at the stores in Somerville he would likely go with four horses and a big farm wagon. He drove by word, without lines, and never tied his horses to a tie-post. They were large and fat and lazy, and when he said whoa, they stood fast until he gave them another command.

On one occasion he came to the office of our late Vice Chancellor, A. V. Van Fleet, when he was a leading lawyer here in Flemington and introducing himself threw down \$20.00 as a retaining fee,

saying he thought of instituting a law suit and in that case would want his services. But that was the last of it, the law suit never came off.

In such ways he cut a pretty broad swath for many years. He inherited three farms, two of which were un-incumbered. He died in a hut on an Illinois prairie, so poor he had not money enough to bury him.

Lot No. 37 of these original purchases, containing 500 acres bought by Hendrick Corson in the same year 1688, represents that part of Tucca-Ramma-Hacking lying at the mouth of the North Branch.

In 1753 Corson sold the south part of his lot to Peter Dumont. This was inherited by his son John Baptist Dumont, and by his will devised for their life time to his sisters, Brachia and Phebe. These were two very amiable gentlewomen, who were Aunt "Bracky" and Aunt Phebe to the whole neighborhood. At their decease it came into the market, and my brother John Vosseller bought it. He sold off all but 100 acres, cleared

up and enriched the land, built a new barn and remodelled the house. These improvements, added to its unusually handsome location, made of it a model homestead. Here he resided until that beautiful Easter morning of 1900, when he entered into rest.

Just back of this farm in Dec. 1753, Jacob Van Nest was brutally murdered by one of his slaves. The occasion is said to have been the taking of a leaf of tobacco out of the negro's box. He was arrested, taken to the county seat, then at Millstone, tried and condemned to be burned publicly at the stake. This execution was a great occasion. Sheriff Van Doren enforced the penalty. It is said that many of the negroes of the surrounding country were present forming the inner circle, while the whites formed the outer circle, around the fire. During the burning, the sheriff on his horse with a drawn sword in hand, rode between the spectators and the fire to keep the former at a proper distance.

In those good old days, when they punished, they punished ; and they were quick about it.

As an illustration,—In that same neighborhood on June 20, 1780, Tobie a negro slave was indicted for a felony. He pleaded not guilty and “put himself on his God and the Country.” On the 21st he was tried and found guilty and sentenced to be hung on the 24th, and the penalty was duly enforced.

“The Dutch Reformed Church of North Branch,” organized about 1717 built its first edifice here on the brow of the hill about two hundred yards west of Two Bridges on the north side of the “big” road, that is, the “old York Road,” and on the west side of the road running up the North Branch. It was built of logs with a framed addition which seems to suggest growth in the congregation soon after the organization. It stood on ground now belonging to the widow of Mr. John Vosseller and tradition says it was burned down. This is the organization now known as the Reformed Church of Readington located about three miles west of this first building, in the village of Readington where a frame church was erected and the first service held Oct. 7, 1739.

During the Revolution the affairs of Queen's, now Rutgers College were carried on for some time in this log church. The faculty and students of this college were more than once obliged to decamp from New Brunswick on account of the proximity of the British forces. The New Jersey Gazette of May 5, 1778, announces that "the business of Queen's College in New Jersey formerly carried on in New Brunswick, is begun at North Branch of Raritan, in the County of Somerset in a pleasant and retired neighborhood ; lodging and board to be had in decent families at 30 £ per annum. Apply to John Taylor A. M., tutor at place aforesaid."

Another notice in the same paper of Jan. 24, 1779, gives information that "the College is still carried on at the North Branch of Raritan, and that the neighborhood is so far distant from headquarters that the army does not at least interfere with the business of the College."

This John Taylor was "1st Colonel New Jersey State Regiment." As late as Sept. 25, 1779 he wrote from this place to Gov. Livingston assign-

ing his duties in College as a reason for some delay in forwarding certain reports concerning the Militia. During the war his time appears to have been divided between his duties as Colonel of a militia regiment and those pertaining to his professorship.

A little north of the Church, but on the east side of the road running up the North Branch, stood a blacksmith shop. In recent years various iron scraps have been unearthed there. Among other things the two halves of a chain cannon ball and the bottoms of smoothing irons, and near where the church stood a fine looking spur, which some horse-backer had lost. A few English copper coins and a few Nova Cesareas or horse heads, also have been found there.

Tradition has it that to this shop Gen. Washington came and had the shoes of his horse taken off and all turned around so that as he travelled in any direction he seemed to be going directly opposite. A crazy conceit. The truth probably was that he had his horse's shoes reset and trans-

ferred from right foot to left that they might wear longer.

It is said a wheelwright shop stood a little to the southwest of the Church. It is certain that a few graves clustered about the Church, but whose, none can tell. "Dust to dust and the spirit to God who gave it."

Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen was the only pastor of this Log Church in the wilderness. At the same time he was Pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of Three Mile Run now New Brunswick, of Six Mile Run, and of Raritan now Somerville. He was a strong man and for about thirty years exercised a powerful influence for good over a territory of more than two hundred square miles, embracing now more than fifty congregations.

The great Whitefield visited him in 1739 and made the following record in his journal. "At New Brunswick some thousands gathered from various parts of the country, among whom there had been a considerable awakening by the instrumentalities of Rev. Mr. Frelinghuysen." This

refers to an extensive revival which had reached all four of his churches and which resulted in the conversion of about two hundred, a very large number for such a sparsely settled region.

Mr. Frelinghuysen deserves to rank among the eminent men of his times. His father was a minister, his five sons were ministers and his two daughters married ministers. Some of his descendants have been greatly honored both by our state and nation, and have adorned every station in which they have been placed.

One of them Hon. Theodore was nominated by the Whigs for Vice-President on the ticket with Henry Clay.

Only a little distance up the North Branch is a place called "The Broad Axe Hole." The water there was deep and the fishing excellent. A funny thing happened there which came near being serious. A large tree had blown over into the water, but was held fast by its roots. Tim McCarthy, whose nationality perhaps you can guess, was assigned the task of cutting off the tree near the bank, so it might be drawn out. He stepped out

on the tree and deliberately cut it off between himself and the shore, so that presently with a great splash down went the tree with Tim and his axe into the deep water and it was with considerable trouble that he was pulled out. But he held on to his axe.

Shad used to be very plentiful about the head waters of the Raritan and for some distance up its Branches. An old gentleman told me that as he was fishing one night in the North Branch he heard a splashing and found that a great fish was making its way up the stream. He gave chase in his boat, but could not overtake it until they came to a rift, where the fish was impeded, and then being determined to capture it, he threw himself upon it, but the fish shook him off and went on up the river. He thought likely it was the King of the Shad. About a mile up the North Branch there is a little village called Milltown. It had a grist mill, woolen mill, saw mill, general store, grocery, blacksmith and wheelwright shop, school house and five dwellings. A considerable business centered here, along in the forties. Now there is

a rather feeble Grist Mill and one or two houses. The whole village and three farms about it, were owned by Michael Van Derveer. Freshets sometimes tore out his dam and occasionally flooded his Grist Mill. He was therefore very sensitive on the subject of rain. At a time when there had been two days of rain he became very anxious and jumping up early on the next day he looked out of the window and remarked, "raining again like a damn fool."

When he had charge of the General Store, he kept no clerk, and often locked the store and went to the mill. If a customer hunted him up, he always inquired what was wanted, and if the proposed purchase was a small one he declared he hadn't any, had just sold out.

At times he bought a great deal of grain. Once he loaded his Mill so heavily with corn that it collapsed and several hundred bushels were carried down the stream. He allowed the mill to remain in that ruined condition for years, before re-building it. A mad dog that was chased across

the meadows ran into these ruins and was shot there.

Here I had my first experiences in school and as I recall them now I am led to say that to be a schoolmaster in those days was to be a brute. In 1847 this school district was united to the one immediately west of it. The building was moved west a half mile and enlarged. With this change came deliverance from tyranny. Rev. Dr. Jno. B. Thompson, his brothers Henry P. and Abraham, and their father Hon. Joseph Thompson were the men who rescued the children of Tucca-Ramma-Hacking from shameful barbarities, and school life became a pleasure. They introduced modern text books and modern methods. The school room was kept clean and was beautified with flowers from the school flower garden. Blackboards made their appearance. The morning session was opened with a reading from scripture followed by a brief prayer. Singing was indulged in at the opening and closing of each session. A love of history was inculcated by these teachers, who would now and then read to the school an account

of some stirring event in our country's life. Friday afternoons were devoted to the reading of compositions and to declamations. The parents were invited in to enjoy these "exercists." Sometimes we had a considerable audience to face and we were allowed to wear our Sunday clothes.

A colored boy dropped into poetry, and wrote some very funny things we thought. One verse was like this :—

"When I do see a great big rat,
Then I do look around
To find a stone or a brick bat
To knock the rascal down."

After two or three efforts of this kind, Dr. Thompson strongly advised him to stick to prose. One fellow who was always blundering began his oration with "Conscript Fathers! I have come down to you from a former generation! Heaven has kindly lengthened out your lives that you might behold this auspicious day!"

The advanced class in Grammar were appointed the "Critics" of the school. They were on the alert to catch up ungrammatical sentences and

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there was great joy among them when now and then the teacher would be caught making a slip of the tongue. In this way the practical use of grammar was shown to the whole school. In these and other ways a great interest in the school was aroused among the pupils and the parents, as well. In the Cedar Grove near by, from which the school took its name, we boys built a miniature railroad one of the arch bridges of which was considered so fine and strong that it was the talk of the neighborhood.

Going to school at Tucca-Ramma-Hacking was fun! The Township Superintendent, Geo. W. Vroom, declared this to be the best school in the Township.

Dr. John B. Thompson has embalmed this name in his "History of Education in New Jersey," a copy of which has lately come into the possession of our Society.

Along in the fifties a certain teacher fell violently in love with one of the handsome girls of this neighborhood. Dr. Thompson in a spirit of mischief wrote some verses on the subject and had

them printed. A single verse will give some idea of their flavor.

“It seems as if some wretched wight
At my heart strings were whacking
-So much I love this lovely maid
Of Tucca-Ramma-Hacking.

It is interesting to know that this severe attack of heart ache was cured in the usual way, and that its owner made a fine record as a teacher at the head of a private school in the lower part of our state.

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